

Trash Talk!

hi kids!



A quarterly newsletter of
Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Bureau of Waste Management
Summer 2001

In April 1997, after a year and a half of planning, the Thomas County Conservation District and the group "Citizens for Recycling" held their first recycling collection. For three years, the program had regular collections in a building owned by a local business.

In 1999, a \$60,000 grant helped build a permanent recycling building and purchase a recycling trailer and other equipment. The first collection at the new facility took place in April 2000.

As a result, the program has grown from a once-a-month, three-hour-long collection to a 24-hour drop-off accepting 22 types of recyclable material! In addition, the recycling trailer travels to nearby communities to collect recyclables. Another \$14,500 grant allowed the program to keep up with continued growth by purchasing more equipment and outside collection bins.

The program is run with the help of lots of volunteers, a "Green Thumb" program employee, city employees, and a very dedicated employee of the Thomas County Conservation District!

Future plans include adding on to the facility to increase storage and work areas and offering assistance with processing recyclables to smaller, surrounding communities.

In 2000, the program's goal was to recycle 200 tons. This goal was met and exceeded by recycling 260 tons! Great things are in store for the Thomas County Conservation District and their Citizens for Recycling!



KANSAS
DON'T SPOIL IT!

"Partnering" is a very popular word in government and business these days. The dictionary says that a partner is a person (or group) working with someone else on an activity that interests both sides. Therefore, "partnering" is a way for people or groups to combine their resources to achieve a common goal. Partnering is like teamwork—and we all know what that is!

But why is partnering important to recycling in Kansas? Many of the recycling programs in this state have problems because they have a big job to do but a small amount of money. When these programs work together with their neighbors, local businesses or the state, they save time and money and increase their recycling successes.

During March, recyclers and

composters from all over the state got together at Fort Hays State University for the seventh annual "Recycling and Composting Works!" conference. The theme of this year's conference was "Partnering to Make a Difference." Recyclers and composters went "back to school" to learn ways that they could work together!

Litter Lyrics

How do you feel about litter? How do you wish others felt about it? Circle a type of litter from the list on the left and an emotion from the list on the right. Now, compose your own "litter lyric," a poem about eight lines long featuring the litter and feeling you chose. You can write a rhyming or non-rhyming poem. Include at least one of the following elements in the poem: personification, alliteration or imagery.

Litter	Emotion
Candy wrapper	Anger
Soft drink can	Sadness
Fast food bag	Fear
Gum	Frustration
Glass bottle	Delight

Review and edit your draft poem. Write a final draft of your poem in the center of a piece of construction paper or cardstock. If you can find a piece with one side already used, that would be great. Remember—reuse! Using litter and recyclable items, create a collage around your poem to help illustrate its theme.

A WORD TO THE WISE

Directions: Look for words listed in each group below. You'll find them down, across, backwards, forwards and diagonally.

FLAMMABLE FJSIBZ
POISONIGNITABLE
EDICITSEPNODUEV
MTSFLIUQEAXCWA
JSXLEFBCV I IOMCT
PRHPQRSGLCRWHC
EEBIIETNSPDRQJA
CNSPREIIIOOBOEJE
CAIOHZTNLLXSCTR
PEULLEURPIMIUE
RLESOV TAXSZVDGG
FCIKTSEWEHSEEQN
USEUPIANHYWERCA
NOITUACGTHAVOID
NQOENUPTZPPORF

Potentially hazardous materials

Antifreeze
Bleach
Cleaners
Fertilizer
Fluorescents
Gasoline
Nail polish
Oil
Pesticide
Poison
Solvent

Warning label words

Caustic
Caution
Corrosive
Danger
Explosive
Flammable
Ignitable
Reactive
Toxic
Warning

Ways to stay away from hazardous materials

Avoid
Reduce
Substitute
Swap
Use up



"PAIR"ADISE

Pair up with a partner. Choose one item from this list: tire, washing machine, swing set or sofa. After discussing what you've chosen, but without looking anything up, develop a short theory (hypothesis) about what materials are used to make the item. Write down your hypothesis. Now do some investigation. (You might look at the item when you go home this evening. Search for information in books or on the Internet. Remember to use your senses along with your thinking skills.) Describe the steps you took to investigate. List your observations. Draw conclusions and record them. Share your findings with the class. Discuss how you formed your hypothesis and the different ways that groups chose to investigate.

WEEKEND WASTE WARRIORS



Over the weekend, keep track of everything that you used and saved for reuse, recycled, or threw away. Use the tally sheet provided below to record your findings. List your categories in the left-hand column under "Items." Your categories might include items such as beverage cans, papers, boxes, candy/gum wrappers and batteries. Be as specific as possible.

Mike's Tally Sheet

Items	Reuse	Recycle	Thrown away	Total
Chip bag			2	2
Pop can		4	1	5
Shoe box	1	1	1	3
Paper	6	2	1	9
Shopping Bag	2	2	1	5
Water bottle	1	1	1	3

Items	Saved for reuse	Recycled	Thrown away	Total



After you have tallied your weekend waste, create a series of pie charts illustrating your results. Remember—to create the pie charts, you'll need to calculate what percentage of each item was saved for reuse, recycled and thrown away.

Were the majority of your activities related to waste reduction (saving items for reuse), recycling, or disposal (throwing items away)? Did it vary from item to item? If so, why? How could you reduce and recycle more in the future?

NEWS to take with you!

Toxic trade-offs

When it comes to hazardous household products, less is better. Here are some easy trade-offs to trim the toxics in your home:

- Whenever possible, use “elbow grease” instead of chemicals.
- Buy the least hazardous product for every job.
- Use up what you already have.
- Purchase only the amount you need.
- Give away or trade stuff your family won’t be able to use up.
- Dispose of hazardous leftovers safely. Most Kansans have access to household hazardous waste disposal services. Call your city or county to find out how to dispose of these materials.

Kansas Don’t Spoil It! Day at the State Fair

September 14 will be celebrated at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson as *Kansas Don’t Spoil It! Day*. Kansas Don’t Spoil It! Day will feature the “Great Hunt for Your Health and Environment.” Fair-goers will be on the hunt for, among other things, recycled-content products. The State Fair runs from September 7 through 16.

Grasscycle

You can recycle your grass clippings, but you don’t have to rinse them and carry them to the curb! Grasscycling is so easy! When you mow, just let your clippings drop back onto the lawn instead of bagging them. Grass clippings are mostly made up of water and nitrogen, so they are good for your lawn. Grasscycling will also cut your mowing time by about 1/3.

3 WAYS TO HANDLE YOUR YARDWASTE
(IN ORDER OF EASE)

- 1. GRASSCYCLE**
(JUST MOW IT AND LEAVE IT!)
- 2. COMPOST**
- 3. PUT IT IN PAPER**

(SEE BACK FOR DETAILS)

Yard Sale

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Hey, kids! Are you looking for some great web surfing this summer? Check out these sites, where you'll learn more about helping the environment and have fun with the activities!



Environmental
Defense's Earth2Kids
<http://www.earth2kids.org>
EPA's Explorers' Club
<http://www.epa.gov/kids/>
Ranger Rick's Kids Zone
<http://www.nwf.org/kids>
Earth Dog's pack
<http://www.earthdog.com>

Don't forget us—www.kdhe.state.ks.us.
Click on the "Kansas Don't Spoil It!" link.



Funded by Kansas
Department of
Health &
Environment,
Bureau of Waste
Management



we
want
to
hear
from
you!

**KDHE/Bureau of Waste Management/
Planning, Grants & Public Education Unit**

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